

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health Agency		(2) MEETING DATE May 2, 2006		(3) CONTACT/PHONE Ann McDowell, 788-2095	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,995 from the General Fund for one-time expenditure to hire an independent contractor for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Planning					
(5) SUMMARY OF REQUEST Hire an independent contractor to coordinate Public Health Pandemic Influenza planning activities, revise the current Pandemic Flu plan, and write protocols for home care and isolation for use in a Pandemic.					
(6) RECOMMENDED ACTION Approve a budget adjustment in the form of a one-time expenditure of \$24,995 from the general fund to secure an outside contractor to lead and direct Pandemic Influenza planning activities as laid out in the Federal Health and Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan and the California Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan					
(7) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund		(8) CURRENT YEAR COST \$24,995		(9) ANNUAL COST N/A	
(10) BUDGETED? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
(11) OTHER AGENCY/ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT (LIST): County Fire, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Mental Health, the American Red Cross, Cal-Poly, Animal Services, Department of Public Works, local law enforcement agencies, Hospitals, and PG & E					
(12) WILL REQUEST REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, How Many? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Term _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contract _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Help _____					
(13) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) <input type="checkbox"/> 1st, <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd, <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd, <input type="checkbox"/> 4th, <input type="checkbox"/> 5th, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All			(14) LOCATION MAP <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(15) Maddy Act Appointments Signed-off by Clerk of the Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
(16) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			(17) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts (Orig + 4 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances (Orig + 4 copies) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(18) NEED EXTRA EXECUTED COPIES? <input type="checkbox"/> Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			(19) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(20) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) <u>N/A</u>			(21) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		(22) Agenda Item History <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____
(23) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">OK Dan Farkshi</div>					

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County of San Luis Obispo • Public Health Department

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Gregory Thomas, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer
Public Health Director

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Gregory W. Thomas, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer/Public Health Administrator

DATE: May 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Request to approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$24,995 from the General Fund for one-time expenditure to hire a limited-term contractor for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Planning

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve a budget adjustment in the form of a one-time expenditure of \$24,995 from the general fund to secure an outside contractor to lead and direct Pandemic Influenza planning activities as laid out in the Federal Health and Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan and the California Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan.

Discussion

Influenza strains circulate in the population on an ongoing basis in a seasonal trend, generally peaking during the winter months and declining in the summer. Influenza strains vary from year to year, changing through processes known as genetic "drift" and genetic "shift". In the process of genetic "drift", minor changes in the influenza genome occur, causing minor changes in the circulating virus. This minor change allows persons with prior exposure to influenza to have partial protective immunity to the new strain. There are normally a number of different influenza strains circulating at any given time, and a person may be exposed to any one of them. The flu vaccine developed and distributed each year protects against the three (3) most commonly circulating strains of flu. Genetic "shift" is the process of major genomic re-assortment in the influenza virus. Once a genetic "shift" occurs, and the new virus acquires the ability to pass easily from person to person, a Pandemic can occur. This major shift means that the population will have little, if any, protective immunity against the new strain of circulating virus. A genetic "shift" causing Pandemic Influenza has occurred three times in the past century, leading to vast increases in morbidity and mortality in the population. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe that it is not a matter of "if" another Pandemic Influenza strain capable of causing increased human morbidity and mortality will emerge, but "when".

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Currently, the WHO and CDC are monitoring a new strain of influenza, H5N1, or “Avian Influenza”. This strain of influenza meets most of the requirements of a pandemic influenza virus. It is a new virus type, having undergone antigenic “shift”, for which the human population has little if any protective immunity. It is widely circulating in the bird population, and is now considered endemic in the wild bird population of Asia, and is emerging in Europe’s and Africa’s wild bird population. There have been suspect cases of human-to-human transmission, but no sustained transmission between humans. If this virus acquires the ability to be easily transmitted between humans, it will meet all the requirements of Pandemic Influenza, and would most likely cause widespread morbidity and mortality.

On November 1st, 2005, President Bush issued a National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza with the intent of (1) stopping, slowing or otherwise limiting the spread of a pandemic to the United States; (2) limiting the domestic spread of a pandemic, and mitigating disease, suffering and death; and (3) sustaining infrastructure and mitigating impact to the economy and the functioning of society. To that end, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan, laying out a blueprint for Pandemic Influenza preparation and response. The plan lays out responsibilities for Federal, State and Local jurisdictions for preparation and response to Pandemic Influenza. The local responsibilities as laid out in the HHS plan include:

- Establishing and implementing a Pandemic Influenza planning effort that includes the formation of specialized committees to address Legal preparedness, Hospital readiness, Laboratory testing and coordination, Mass Vaccination of the local population, County Government Continuanace, Communications, and Community Containment.
- Creating protocols for home care and isolation of patients unable to be treated in tradition care centers.
- Providing vaccination of affected members of the community based on vaccine supplies and priority vaccination recommendations.

On January 19th, the California Department of Health Services released the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan for California. The local Health Department requirements as specified in the California plan include:

- Preventing spread of disease through education and information
- Conducting primary case investigation and treatment
- Providing immunization and treatment
- Conducting primary surveillance
- Protecting communities through legal orders and enforcement as necessary
- Informing and educating partner agencies and the public on public health guidance and actions needed to reduce and slow spread of disease

Currently, San Luis Obispo County has a draft plan for Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response. To fulfill all of the activities as detailed in the Federal, State and local plans, the formation of specific committees including disparate elements of County Government and the general public and business community is necessary to fully inform and prepare all levels of County Government, the business community, and general public for Pandemic Influenza. A minimum of nine (9) committees are necessary to address the many requirements of both State

and Federal plans. The Public Health Department has identified the core goals necessary to help prepare for Pandemic Influenza. To achieve these goals, a dedicated person is necessary to coordinate planning activities and committees, and prepare protocols for use in a Pandemic situation. Currently, there are no staff available to assume these responsibilities without compromising core Public Health functions. A contractor is necessary to chair each committee as it meets over the next 6 months and guide them through the necessary planning and preparation for Pandemic Influenza. In addition, the contractor will revise the County's existing plan, and develop protocols for home care and isolation of persons unable to receive care in hospitals or other traditional medical establishments.

Other Agency Involvement/Impact

The Public Health Department will coordinate the planning and preparation for Pandemic Influenza, but the nature of Pandemic Influenza and the recommendations from the HHS Pandemic Influenza plan both require the cooperation of agencies throughout the County, as well as private sector involvement. The preparation and planning efforts will involve at a minimum representation from the County Bioterrorism Advisory Committee (BTAC), which includes representatives from County Fire, the Sheriff's Department, CHP, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Mental Health, the American Red Cross, Cal-Poly, Animal Services, Department of Public Works, local law enforcement agencies, Hospitals, and PG & E. Due to the broad reaching effects of a potential Pandemic, other County agencies, private entities and individual representation would be needed as well. Such representation will include County Counsel, private medical representatives, Chamber of Commerce representatives, school representatives and religious leaders.

Financial Consideration

A contract in the amount of \$24,995 is needed to secure the services of a contractor to lead the Pandemic Influenza preparedness efforts. The contractor will be employed to manage the nine (9) multi-agency committees on a half time basis to better coordinate planning activities throughout the County. The contractor will also be responsible for updating the existing Pandemic Influenza preparedness plan for the County, and preparing procedures and checklists to guide emergency response throughout County Departments. The total support requested from the General Fund is \$24,995.

With the recent push from both the Federal and State governments to prepare for Pandemic Influenza, and the emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1), the Public Health Department is responding in a timely fashion to the urgency of Pandemic Influenza preparedness. This situation was not anticipated when the Public Health budget was prepared for the 06/07 fiscal year, and there are currently no funding sources to cover planning and preparedness efforts for Pandemic Influenza.

The Federal Government has committed to funding Pandemic Influenza preparedness efforts on a National level, and has sent a small portion of that funding to the States. However, there is no indication as yet that local funding will be forthcoming this fiscal year or the amount that will be

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available in FY 06/07. Should local funding be received at some point in the future, we will return to the Board to discuss accepting those funds and how best to allocate them to further preparedness efforts. If allowable under grant guidelines, we would utilize grant funds to backfill the current requested funding allocation. This could occur if the State and Federal grants did not stipulate a “non-supplantation” clause in their funding grants.

Results

Adoption of the Pandemic Influenza Response resolution will help ensure that a County-wide preparation and planning effort is coordinated between County agencies, the business community, and general public throughout the County within 6 months of adoption. Also within 6 months;

- A system for rapid deployment of necessary vaccination/prophylaxis supplies and equipment would be procured and available for emergency use in the event of Pandemic Influenza or other infectious disease emergency
- Protocols and methods for community response and containment will be developed
- Protocols for the protection of County Employees through the utilization of personal protective equipment and social distancing will be developed.
- Legal Protocols for isolation, quarantine, expanded scope of practice for allied health providers and social distancing will be refined and reviewed.
- Risk Communication protocols, procedures and templates will be devised for use in Pandemic Influenza
- A database will be developed for keeping track of isolated and quarantined individuals throughout the County
- Critical connections will be forged between Emergency planners, County Government staff, business leaders and the general public to face an Influenza Pandemic

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